

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## Concerning Petticoats

Concerning petticoats—or rather, the lack of them—fashion magazines have had much to say during the past two seasons. In a recent publication there is a clever piece with the usual setting for a man and maid. It is the same old scene and dance of a drive in the country and a runaway horse, with the man injured, but it is just at this point that the very original turn is given to the plot, and one closes the story with a laugh and a comfortable feeling of having been pleased. The man, it seems, is in love with the girl whom he is driving into the country for the very purpose of declaring his passion, and is mainly in love with her for the long slim lines of her body and the very fashionable figure she presents at all times. When the obliging horse has thrown the man out at just the right rocky turn in the road and banged him about the head sufficiently for it to appear dangerous, we find the lady of long lines wringing her hands in a hopeless sort of way, unable to get beyond a certain diameter and hindered in every way by her French heels and pretty clothes.

Just at the psychological moment up steps your old-fashioned girl, who has been picking blackberries in an adjoining field, tears up her petticoat and helps the man home. At the last, the man turns with reproachful eyes to the girl and says, "Oh, why couldn't it have been you that tore up the petticoat?" And the wall of the woman is that she did not tear any.

Of course, there is the point that the girl in the field picking blackberries would probably never have been caught with such a garment as a petticoat upon her person at anything like a full dress occasion; but that is only here and there, and it is a charming story and very much to the point of our petticoatless age.

It is a funny fashion, but it is pretty, and you look back on the days of ruffles and ruffles and the continual kick of the woman who did the wash and shudder with just the same happy hearts that our mothers had concerning the hoop skirts of the generation just past, and, Heaven knows, there never were more atrocious styles than the hoop skirt and other points of fashion that graced a day earlier than our own. We are very prone to sigh for good old days, and Rachel weeping for her children is scarcely to be counted with the numbers of women who scorn the fashion and mourn the passing of the petticoat until its return, when they will doubtless continue the wail, but on different lines. And, indeed, it is much the best plan to lay the dear ruffles away in lavender, because they are surely coming back again in that pleasant time known as some day.

Just now the "turkey trot" and "grizzly bear" have sent the Boston and the double reverse to the wall, and long, slim girls recline on chairs that once held plumper beauties. The day of the Grecian brow has passed, and the hair is pulled down loved over one's eyes with a lazy, sleepy look, stolen from our sisters "East of Suez," and wide expanse of hair in most senses of the word is decidedly passé. We are so simple people, with simple tastes, so we are recorded, and there is even a changing note of fashion in barrels, and certainly in furniture. It is no more the fashion to have big ruffled chairs just now than it is to have petticoats of the same dimension, and who would dump their coal in anything but a straight up and down barrel? Follow my leader in a pretty game, but you go foot if you don't do just exactly like the person leading the parade, and what lady, passing fair, wants a petticoat, no matter how lacy the ruffles, if the great brain of the Paris leader has sent out the decree for a petticoatless season or two? BRENT WITT.

## Almond Paste Biscuits.

For the biscuits, put in a mortar one-half pound of blanched and dried almonds, and pound them to a paste with a little rose or orange flower water to prevent their oiling; when quite smooth add the yolks of two eggs and four ounces of finely powdered sugar, mix well together, and put the mixture into a basin; whisk the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth, mixing in with this one ounce of ground rice, and stir it carefully to make a very cool oven. Leave till baked, then spread with some melted apricot, marmalade or other jam to taste, and when cold cover with the following icing and leave till set: Put one-half pound of icing sugar into a sauce pan and add the strained juice of a lemon, and stir over the fire till stringy. Flavor to taste and stir till nearly cold, and use.

## Fidgeting Children.

The child who shows no disposition to move about and is apparently happy sitting still will grow up to be slow-witted and heavy. On the other hand, the baby who is always using its arms and legs will be intelligent, its brain will work quickly, and it will without doubt be clever.

Children are frequently encouraged when in the family, to throw their arms and legs about, to play with their fingers and toes, and when they are older the wise parent will not insist on their keeping still.

## Interesting Recipe.

This recipe for egg biscuits dates back a long way, being mentioned in a blank page in a cook book in the possession of a Baltimore matron who received it from her grandmother. In place of the baking powder, the original recipe used cream of tartar and one of course, the egg biscuits the ingredients required are two cups of flour, one teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one tablespoonful of lard and one of butter, one egg and one cupful of milk. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder, rub in the lard and butter and mix to a light dough with the egg and milk. Knead lightly, roll out an inch thick and cut into strips two by three inches. Brush the tops with melted butter or milk and bake at once in a hot oven for twelve minutes.

## Fancy Dress Costumes.

During the season in Paris the social ball has been kept rolling at a fast and furious pace. One of the most successful of the many fetes was a fancy dress ball, at which all the guests were invited to attend clothed in the costume of a certain "period." Needless to say, the scheme was carried out to the letter.



EVENING GOWNS FOR THE SOUTH, SUITABLE FOR LACE, BORDERED MATERIALS AND CHIFFON.

L'Art de la Mode.

## What Women Are Doing

### Clever English Women In Business For Themselves.

Lots of Englishwomen prominent in society have taken to earning nimble sixpences for themselves, most of them smart women of the day being devoted to some special industry that nets them lots of pin money. Lady Angela Forbes, the sister of the Duchess of Sutherland, for instance, has for some time past been arranging flowers for balls and parties, and has recently established a flower shop and is now "in business for herself." She goes down to Covent Garden in the early morning to make her purchases, "just like any ordinary flower seller," and she has quite a smart following and does a flourishing trade.

The sister-in-law of Lord Ebury, the Hon. Mrs. Richard C. Grosvenor, one of England's first "woman gardeners," or, more strictly speaking, she is what is known as a consultant on gardening subjects, an interest which has been hers for a long time now, and which she has recently decided to turn to account. She, too, has been very successful in this line of work. And the beauty of it all is that she quite frankly advertises herself as a gardener's consultant. She and her husband, who is a barrister, live in a pretty place near Woking (fascinating Britishism), and there she amply demonstrates her ability in the profession she has adopted.

There are lots of Englishwomen, of course, who are interior decorators, but that is a field that has been well filled by the fair sex both at home and abroad. In quite another line of artistic endeavor is the work of Miss Venetia Baring, Lord Ashburton's daughter. She is a very skilled needlewoman, and as Queen Mary is so especially fond of this sort of thing and likes to have people about her who love this kind of work, it is said that Miss Baring owes her present position of maid of honor to Her Majesty to her skill in this regard. The Queen loves to embroider, with her women in attendance, while one of them reads

aloud. Before her South African tour she had all her "maiden" about her, plying the needle, while one of them read about the places that the Queen was going to see. It is interesting to think that there are some women today who still practice the graceful arts and happen to be born without the business sense. But they are becoming rarer and rarer each year.—Exchange.

## The Waist Line.

Much has been written, and more said, about the position of the waist line on fall and winter frocks.

If it were not for a capricious mode, no one would consider the question; for no matter what name a fashion says, the human body has but one waist line.

It has pleased the dictators of style, however, to move this normal line about as they please. First, it is up under the arms; such was the position of the fashionable waist of the Empress Josephine. Then, if you please, it drops to a point several inches below the normal, as the styles of 1854, and again as late as 1905, will attest. The last season has seen it raised again, and now word comes from Paris that the newest model shows a "lowered" line at the waist—one only "slightly above normal," which means that ere long women will again display the waist line with which they were created.

With the return of the normal, or near normal, line will come the introduction of short trains on "afternoon" and evening gowns, for in no other way can that sweep of grace be obtained.

The accepted line of the waist this season is one and one-half inches above the normal in the back, gradually tapering to one inch above in front. The most fashionable frocks will be made from that model, although in the evening gowns greater liberties will be taken with this portion of the frock.

## Original Engagement Shower

A bride who is going to housekeeping immediately after her marriage will be fascinated with a "bathroom shower." There are numberless attractive things to be had, and most of them are so small that they are easily adaptable to a "shower." The rubber spray must play a conspicuous part in the collection. Then there may be a soap dish, toothbrush holder, sponge rack, glass towel rods and shelves; bath mats, towels, wash cloths, sponges, rubber brushes, a hot water bag with an embroidered linen cover, and last, but not least, a collection of glass-stoppered bottles with gold labels. An assortment of toilet waters, bath salts, etc., may be added.

All of these things may be packed in a wicker hamper for the bath room, and the field hamper, gaily decorated with ribbons of appropriate color, may be presented to the bride afterward.

A "utility shower," suggested by the much-prized utility boxes, would also be appreciated, especially by a bride who expects to do a part or all of her own work. One of the small wooden boxes on rollers, sold for shirtwaist boxes, would house very conveniently all of these numerous tools for working. Among them there should be first a real tool box, containing two hammers—one heavy and one light, a large and small screwdriver, a gimlet, pliers, wire, picture hooks, nails of all sizes, tacks, hooks, etc. In addition to the toolbox there should be balls of twine, wrapping paper, white shelf paper, dusters, floor cloths, rubber gloves, cleaning caps, broom bags, pieces of chamois, aprons, labels, a large pair of shears, a six-foot measure. Any one who has gone through the settling experience lately will be able to add other suggestions.

A "newest invention shower" would be novel. For this all the newest labor-saving devices for the kitchen should be hunted out, especially the newest kinds.

For the bride who is to take a long trip for her honeymoon, a "bag shower" would be appropriate. The principal gift should be a traveling bag. This should contain all sorts of little bags, shoe bags, a work bag, a handkerchief bag, a powder bag, and a sewal bag.—Harper's Bazaar.

## Little Journeys Into Fashion Land

Hats no longer boast but a single feather, quill or flower; instead they are crowded with trimmings to their outermost edges. Feathers, marabou, ostrich bands and their kindred kinds predominate. The favorite arrangement for trimmings of all kinds is very high toward the centre. Some materials bank softly into a mound shape, while others tower tree-like on the top of the crown.

No wardrobe is complete without a scarf—preferably scarfs—of some kind. These of fur are the acme of luxury and are very graceful, particularly when worn in accordance with the French mode. Imported scarfs, which resemble our old-time fascinators of ice wool, are laying claim to much favor, and laces, chignons, satins and velvets play no unimportant part.

Fringe has not yet ceded its place to any other trimming. In fact, it seems to be longer, heavier, more varied in materials and in greater demand than ever. Fur sets of hat, scarf and muff are very chic, although the long fur coat is rapidly gaining precedence over separate fur pieces.

Quilted silk kimonos are the ideal cold weather negligee. They are distinctly Japanese in design and combine the utmost warmth with the least possible weight.

Patent boots and those of suede are the acknowledged leaders in footwear; the former accompanying the more severely tailored garments, the latter being the primo favorite for afternoon wear and informal dress occasions.

Silver gray is the shade of the moment in Paris, and American women past their first youth are eagerly recognizing its possibilities, especially for very elaborate gowns, which permit it to be used in combination with either brighter or more sombre tones, as one's taste dictates.

Black velvets with narrow stripes of color are about the newest thing in

dress fabrics, and make up very effectively when trimmed with plain black bands or with materials exactly matching the stripes in color.

Pearls and coral reign supreme in jewelry and gold filigree is the fad of the day.

Stenciled chiffons are having the largest representation among the frocks which are seen at all the social functions of the younger set. And chemisettes are a feature of girls' school dresses which mothers like. Although the dress is of serge or cheviot, a fresh chemisette may be worn each day.

## The Basquid Blouse.

Little blouses of embroidered lawn or any light fabric are, like the new silk coats, reviving the old style of having the basque outside the skirt instead of under it, a grille of silk cord confining the blouse a little above the waist line, and so giving the desired short-waisted effect. These blouses, which are usually cut in the Magyar fashion, are exceedingly simple to make, and any one who is clever with the needle can embroider the front, sleeves, and round the yoke. It is better to do this after the blouse has been cut out, so that the pattern may be placed just where the embroidery is wanted. For house wear a blouse of this sort would look specially smart if made of the same material as the skirt, or at least in the same color.

Soft silk or dyed shantung could be worn with a cloth skirt and embroidered in self-color in a conventional design with a grille to match. For the gulper, crease lines or tucked net always looks well, while the fashionable gold or metallic net appeals to some tastes.

She is either fully energized or perfect in her repose. She is completely fascinating, because perfect master of herself. If you want to learn how to rest study the cat. It rests in perfect comfort, anywhere, at any time, and is the greatest example of perfect relaxation and grace.

## Making Silk Underskirts

When a woman goes to select a ready-made petticoat of moderate price, she will have great difficulty in finding one that will fit without considerable alteration.

For that reason it is best to make your silk underskirts at home, or have them made by a competent seamstress. If you make them yourself, it will be possible to have two petticoats for the price of one well-made bought one.

Messaline is the most popular petticoat fabric; but it is also possible to purchase a soft-finished taffeta that wears very well.

Four and one-half yards of yard-wide material will be sufficient to make an amply full skirt, trimmed in an attractive manner with a flounce or several rows of quilting. Cut the petticoat over a gored skirt pattern; five, seven or nine gores will be found easy to make.

Take care when you lay the pattern on the silk that the perforations marking the straight edge of the pattern are placed on the straight of the material; otherwise you will have trouble in making the skirt set properly.

If the pattern is too long, lay a fold, the required number of inches to make it the right length in the centre of each gore before cutting out the material.

Baste the gores together and fit the skirt before stitching. Then, if you wish, you can make French seams, giving a neat finish to the work.

Adjust the waistband and stitch it in place before you finish the hem; then it will be easy to get the proper length. A two-inch hem or facing goes on next, and the trimming last.

Either flounce or quilting must be cut on the bias.

Five inches wide when finished is a good width for a flounce and two inches for quilting. The flounce is hemmed on one edge and gathered into a narrow heading when sewed on the skirt. Quilting must be hemmed on both edges and shirred or box pleated through the centre.

Some women prefer quilting with a plaid or ringed edge. This can be done at small cost in a department store if you have no machine of your own.

The petticoat will wear better and last longer if a skirt braid is sewed around the under edge of the hem to protect it from being cut out.

Hooks and eyes or small fasteners secure the placket from gaping open.

Good luck to you in the making of your silk petticoat at home.

## A Posey in Her Belt.

No evening frock is really complete nowadays without its corsage flowers, made of ribbon, silk or chiffon and designed to emphasize the color harmony of the gown in some daring note of color. For instance, a dinner gown in the lovely subtle mauves and yellows that make one think of a Sarcelle background, has a single flower sent in deep mauves and magenta; a brown and yellow bridge frock shows a cluster of black chrysanthemums with yellow centres at the belt; a debutante dancing frock of pink chiffon has its cluster of little pink rosebuds; in the young widow's pale gray crepe do machine dinner gown are fastened violets. A red flower adds infinitely to the chic of a black lace frock, and a white gardenia in green leaves or a cluster of green silk grapes will add much grace to a white costume.

## The Dinner Gown.

The dinner gown of the present is artistic in every sense of the word. The return of the train and the shawl drapery makes this gown one of grace and fascination.

Fringe trimmings are used lavishly upon the shawl draperies. A novel dinner dress had an underskirt of pale green satin made with a pointed train. Silk fringe bordered the hem. A double drapery brought around from the back of the skirt was caught with a large satin-covered button. This overdress had an edging of the fringe.

The bodice was fashioned of pale green silk gauze brocade with silver. This was cut coat shape with long sleeves in two points, and bordered with green silk fringe. The short sleeves were edged with the fringe to correspond. A vest of silver net was crossed by bands of black velvet.

The grille was of black velvet, and the V-shaped opening of the bodice was outlined by a pleated rill of alonon lace. A draped scarf of satin, shod with silver and adorned at one side by a bunch of aligrettes, completed the costume.

## The Art of Resting.

The other day one public speaker, a very present woman, stated that the only thing necessary to beauty was plenty of rest.

As she was talking to girls who earn their own living, and consequently have little or no time to rest during the day, it seemed rather foolish advice; but when I caught a glimpse of her speaker, I was truly astonished, for she does not look as if she had ever understood the meaning of the word.

This woman is very rich, consequently she does not have to worry about money matters. The chase for the silver dollar is a very restless occupation, and if it is long continued it leaves its marks on every face, no matter how much massage you use to erase the lines. The lecturer on rest has a face seamed and lined, and such unquiet, such a reposeless body.

She is not young, but in all her years she has not mastered the art of resting or even of looking restful—yet she lectures on rest—and she is right.

Without plenty of rest you can't be beautiful or retain your youthful looks very long. She has not done so.

Many people never rest excepting during their hours of sleep. I think being too vivacious is an exhausting to others as it is to one's self, and the fascinating person varies being vivacious and quiet by turns. American girls are usually vivacious. They make a great deal about every little thing. Then as they grow older they grow fatigued and have less enthusiasm. They settle down more and look either bored or tired, unless they become interested in public things, and then they assume the restless animation which wears them into nervous prostration.

Many women try to look intense over everything. It is a kind of affectation which deceives nobody and will only wear you out physically. Why should one be intense about trivialities? Save yourself for your work and for things that really count.